



Wild Bear Nature Center

### **2021-2022 eeCorps Nature Educator**

**Program Overview:** Led by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE), the Environmental Education Corps (eeCorps) AmeriCorps Program places AmeriCorps members at organizations throughout Colorado to focus on increasing environmental literacy for PreK-12 students and implementing the goals outlined in the Colorado Environmental Education Plan. eeCorps works directly with teachers, schools, and environmental education providers to support them in expanding reach and increasing impact of EE programming, while providing access to equitable learning experiences for all PreK-12 students. eeCorps members provide direct service to improve outcomes in Environmental Stewardship and Education. AmeriCorps provides opportunities to improve lives and foster civic engagement all across the country.

This position will be located at Wild Bear Nature Center, which is located in Nederland, CO. Wild Bear Nature Center's mission is to inspire a lifelong connection to nature and community through creative exploration of the outdoors. Wild Bear serves over 2,000 children a year through our school year and summer camp programming.

Wild Bear Nature Center is seeking a highly qualified AmeriCorps member to assist with development and implementation of K-12 nature education programs, both in-person and virtual, as well as organizational growth.

#### **Essential Functions:**

- Collaborate with our education team to plan fun and hands-on nature programs for K-12 school age children
- Collaborate with our partners to develop and implement all season programs
- Plan and implement creative hands-on full day, half day, nature clubs, and other nature programs.
- Plan and implement existing and new virtual education programs and resources.

- Adopt all Wild Bear policies and procedures engaging in hands-on creative programs while keeping all participants safe.
- Collaborate with the Nature Education Director and Coordinator to create program curricula, planning guides, and resources.
- Take pride in diligently organizing and maintaining Wild Bear's education materials
- With the Wild Bear team, integrate new ideas into Wild Bear's existing programs and materials.
- Collaborate with the education team to create nature adventure enrichment kits for teachers and families
- Assist education leadership team with program registration, program coordination and evaluation
- Track progress and collect evaluation data for the program's performance measures
- Attend all eeCorps AmeriCorps trainings and orientations
- Complete all eeCorps required National Days of Service projects
- Complete and submit all necessary eeCorps paperwork and reports by predetermined deadlines
- Some local and out of town travel may be required

#### **Desired Qualifications:**

- Completed (or in progress) degree in the field of education, environmental studies, environmental education or interpretation, natural science or related field and/or experience in leading groups of school-age children in nature.
- Three positive professional references
- Experience and/or education in innovative full day nature education program planning.
- Ethic of national and community service and a strong desire to create positive change
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; computer literate
- High School Diploma or GED required, college graduate preferred
- Ability to pass criminal history checks (required)
- Reliable transportation and proof of auto insurance
- U.S. Citizenship or lawful permanent resident status required

#### **Nature Educator Profile:**

- Aligned with Wild Bear's mission, vision and values.
- Child focused in teaching techniques

- Has skills and experience in nontraditional, experiential, and creative teaching models.
- Strong organizational skills
- Experience in creating and planning nature education programs and formalized lesson plans
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Natural History knowledge, skills, interest, and experience
- Creativity and art focus for program planning and implementation
- Adaptive problem solving and educational mindset
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to self-start and work as a member of a team
- Strong presentation skills
- Fun, creative, and project oriented
- Thinks outside the box
- People with musical and creative strengths, a sense of humor, a kind and gentle demeanor, who enjoy spending time with children, and love the outdoors!

**Tentative Schedule:** (subject to change) 40 hrs/week

- Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
- Flexible hours are required, including occasional evening and weekend commitments.
- Member must serve on Days of Service that take place on certain national holidays throughout the year.

**Term of Service:** This is a full-time national and community service position requiring a minimum of 1,700 hours during the year (approximately 40 hours/week.) The position begins August 23, 2021 and ends July 29, 2022.

**Training and Support Provided:** eeCorps members receive significant training and experience in community engagement, project implementation, leadership, diverse populations, and more. Up to 20% of total hours served may be spent in applicable approved training and professional development. Members will be supervised and supported by Michelle Witte, Nature Education Director, as well as by Erin Dreps, eeCorps Program Coordinator. The 2021-22 cohort of eeCorps members serving throughout the state will act as additional resources and support for each other. Wild Bear will provide staff training and orientation throughout the term, as well as continued mentorship. Wild Bear uses self-evaluations and team member goal setting to enrich each team member's professional development and growth at the organization.

**Benefits:** Full Time eeCorps members receive:

- A bimonthly living allowance of \$695.66. Taxes are deducted and the living allowance is distributed twice per month by direct deposit to the member's bank account.
- Health insurance
- Child care assistance
- An education award of \$6,345 upon successful completion of term of service. It is possible to defer student loans while serving as an AmeriCorps member.
- Mileage reimbursement for travel to required trainings, days of service, and program sites
- Non-tangible benefits including extensive training, valuable experience, networking, and the opportunity to serve the local community in a crucial area of need.
- Ability to participate in regional EE leadership councils; option to obtain CAEE's nationally-recognized Professional Environmental Educator Certification.

**Diversity and Equal Opportunity:** Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers, selection of vendors, and provision of services. But with regard to mental or physical disability, it is not discrimination or unfair employment practice for the Corporation to act as provided in this paragraph if there is no reasonable accommodation that the Corporation can make with regard to the disability, the disability actually disqualifies the individual from the job or from program participation and the disability has a significant impact on the job or program participation.

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) recognizes the value of diversity and inclusiveness to advance environmental education. CAEE defines diversity in its broadest sense and welcomes everyone to the field of environmental education and the Alliance, including but not limited to people of all races, ethnicities, genders, gender expressions, sexual orientations, abilities, ages, national origins, socioeconomic status, religious affiliations, languages, and heritages.

### **To Apply:**

If you are interested in applying to this position, please send your resume and a short cover letter outlining your interest in the program and commitment to national service to Erin Dreps, eeCorps Program Coordinator, at [americorps@caee.org](mailto:americorps@caee.org). Please include "AmeriCorps Wild Bear Application" in the subject line. Please also attach a list of three (3) references, and a diversity and inclusion statement that is no longer than one page in length.